

Appl. No. 10/687,243
Amdt. dated December 3, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 6, 2004

Docket No. 58085-010202

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1-17 to correct any grammatical errors and informalities. Also applicants have included new claims 18 and 19. Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. section 102(b) as being anticipated by Sim (U.S. Patent No. 6,529,786). In order to sustain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) the prior art reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or implicitly in a single prior art reference. (See, MPEP 706.02 and MPEP 2131).

Sim does not explicitly or implicitly teach each and every element of independent claims 1 and 10. Therefore, Sim does not anticipate independent claims 1 or 10. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 10 refer to a hierarchy of patrons as a basis to allow patrons to access an attraction. A hierarchy of patrons may be, for example, a categorization of patrons giving preferential treatment to those patrons located at the entertainment environment versus those patrons located away from the entertainment environment.

The Examiner has acknowledged that a hierarchy is not explicitly mentioned in Sim. As suggested by the Examiner, Sim may be inferred to teach a hierarchy of reserved times for attractions. However, a hierarchy of reserved times for attractions is not a hierarchy of patrons. Thus, Sim does not teach a hierarchy of patrons.

Accordingly, Sim does not anticipate independent claims neither one of claims 1 or 10. Applicants submit that the rejections of independent claims 1 and 10 should be withdrawn. Claims 2-9 and 11-17 depend from claims 1 and 10 respectively. Therefore, claims 2-9 and 11-

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17 are not anticipated by Sim. Thus, Applicants submit that the rejections of amended claims 2-9 and 11-17 should also be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sim (U.S. Patent No. 6,529,786). The Examiner has not met his burden to prove a *prima facie* case of obviousness. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, one of the basic criteria that must be met is that the prior art reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Vaack*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). As for independent claims 1, 10, 18, 19 and 20, Sim fails to teach or suggest a hierarchy of patrons. As suggested by the Examiner, Sim teaches hierarchy of time slots. This invention refers to a hierarchy of patrons. A hierarchy of patrons is not a hierarchy of time slots. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that Sim does not teach or suggest the modification of a hierarchy of time slots into a hierarchy of patrons.

Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 10 are not rendered obvious by Sim. Applicants submit that the rejections of independent claims 1 and 10 should be withdrawn. Claims 2-9 and 11-17 depend from claims 1 and 10 respectively. Accordingly, claims 2-9 and 11-17 are not rendered obvious by Sim. Therefore, Applicant also submits that the rejections of dependent claims 2-9 and 11-17 should also be withdrawn.

Regarding Claims 18 and 19, these new claims simply further define the invention and also concern a hierarchy of patrons. Additionally, the elements of Claims 18 and 19 are all supported in the original, as-filed application and do not present new matter.

Applicants have complied with all requirements made in the above referenced communication. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance

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be issued in this case. Should matters remain, which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent.

Fee Calculation:

Extra Claim Fees		Extra Claims		Fee	
Total Claims	19 - 20 =	0	x	\$ 18.00 =	\$ 0.00
Independent Claims	4 - 3 =	1	x	\$ 88.00 =	\$ 88.00
Multiple Dependent Claim				\$ 150.00 =	\$ 0.00
Subtotal					\$ 88.00
Additional Fees					
Surcharge - late filing fee					\$ 0.00
Extension for reply within the first month					\$ 110.00
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)					\$ 0.00
Subtotal					\$ 110.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT					\$ 198.00

The Director is authorized to charge \$198.00 and any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account Number 50-2638, Deposit Account Name Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Please ensure that the Attorney Docket Number is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

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Date December 3, 2004

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